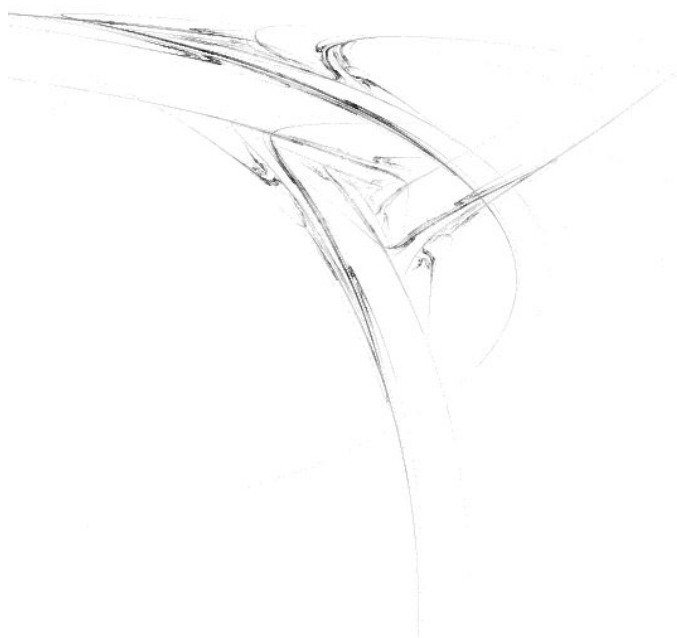


# null set

ric carfagna



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*Null Set* by Ric Carfagna

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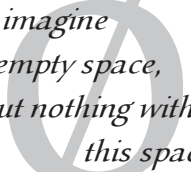
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ric carfagna

*"So spoke of the existence of things,  
An unmanageable pantheon"*

*George Oppen*



*"I can imagine  
this empty space,  
but nothing without  
this space."*

*Ludwig Wittgenstein*

*"for this shall never prevail :  
that things that are not,  
are.'*

*Parmenides*

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*romantic (de)crescendo*

ragged pages  
          evening wall-  
                          abstraction  
          abandon  
                          the slender weight  
here ————— nebulous textuality only  
          emerging                   implements of resistance  
                          necessitating           clarity  
   bound to a surface -  
          vulnerability emitting  
   nonce airy profundities . . . :  
          arid line       manipulating  
          (a tabula rasa)       dissoluble perimeter  
          linguistic   metastasis  
                          .  
                          .  
                          .  
          evolutionary                   stigmata  
          whose wisdom harbors this . . .  
do you expect the sentence  
          to continue   to end (in-sentence  
          modalities of resistance  
          to speak   the sallow dissonance  
          a-voided   door  
          which survives   only exits  
          as such the scenario lies malleable :  
          strange sublime turns to the unfamiliar  
          again to question   verity       to resuscitate  
          (the transcendent)   airs of word-measure  
          biodegradable   redolence and . . .  
          thot-attachments to immutability-  
          empirical       disillusion       aleatoric  
          tome in 3 dimensions -   boundary conditions  
          meeting with elliptical perspicuity  
          autonomy's   veiled       rosetta  
          jargonized       semiotic           decay



stability  
of the irrational  
(denial  
of) consciousness  
yielding  
to veiled pretense

condensation  
and negative excess

maskings in dark matter

what is not understood  
stands  
as diminishment

alone  
at this point  
the methodical in places  
retaining a fixed quotient

connective

lag of retrogressive animus :

how crows appear  
distinctly concrete

present-tensed :  
transparency's erratum

the space on the page  
does not preclude  
the eclipse of the singular  
mind to deduce  
its inevitable passage thru ...

being  
before construction  
gaseous states  
of vague memory:  
collective amniotic echo

having that  
feelings relay  
(in)apprehensible sediment

the precision of things  
not known by name

the wastes which lay  
a deep fingerhole's  
mercurial substratum

signification

an unthinking passion (:)  
empiricism's (s)crawling  
a rock's face  
indecipherable    purity

: the loss of lyrical impulse

not to contrive  
shapes from chaos  
nor the determinant  
motive force  
of tacet-storms

phenomenalism

(tacit storm)



## *thots to rationalize*

the subjectification of matter :  
a barking dog's  
entangling thot  
immune to this  
ideation :  
the useless yuppified pettifogs  
and her . . . sotto voce uncertainties -

attenuations of torture  
a friend of a friend's  
didactic imperative :  
'please leave the TV on  
and my shadow  
aridly deformed  
on the bathroom floor' -

at present. . .  
there is little light left  
only the erotic tailings  
which paint the sky ...  
I remember  
a sliver of darkened chasmic albedo  
the ego's arrant undergrowth  
and a cerebrally amoebic insignificance  
eluding detection by the peasantry -

the case sanity makes  
to subside into  
a Heraclitian hubris  
a thundering sense of the vatic  
and weeds which grow  
their own garden elegy  
undisturbed  
(and immune to an  
eco-tourist's incarcerated awareness) -

*unterminated complex entity*

*(state of arrears)*

it is  
a question of scale  
hypothetically  
assuming the inaccurate  
lay of the land  
measured at flight-level 330  
compass deviation  
and mislocutionary bearings

the landing strip  
of liquid asphalt  
the new-moon light  
from the ill-reflected refinery

alone at the oval window  
immune to a past-tense  
reticulated tracery  
absorbing the vernacular  
dispensation of rain  
rhythmic entropy  
evidenced in the protean  
strains of towering cumulus  
a Turner's unframeable  
'study of clouds'  
shadows less entrenched  
with a bodily atrophy  
ontic imprints  
for an immaterial world . . .

terminologically incensed  
with a mortality  
lived on a macroscopic scale  
dust-bowl ruminations  
and a perspiring stretch  
for the arid imagination

the distinct  
pallor of vultures  
muted sentinels  
on alienated landscapes

ruddy faces  
of condensation-stained progeny  
a disparate foreground-thot  
to lay alongside  
the metastasizing outcrops

---

too many abstracts  
clutter the mind  
with senseless immensities  
it is the democratic  
bread-line of tangibility  
which inspires  
such eloquent reservations

to forget  
that which lay among  
a rubble's indelible foundation  
a lineage of the stately  
amber-weighted  
plaintive-stains  
a constitution's  
dry-ink apathy  
a bleeding scar's  
cloud-cover stigmata

## *significations of decay*

*this is not a language*  
gravitating toward  
representational freedom  
compassion-induction  
seamless  
ontological indeterminacy

meaningless sensibility  
lacking cohesion

*there is no cause* to argue  
its dictates  
resurrecting  
a preconditional stalemate  
of isolative repressibilities

*the remoteness of*  
*divine intercession :*

a presence

stands determined  
to alleviate  
a mute iconography's  
entangling semiotic

effaced vagrant complacency  
to follow inevitably  
where dereliction leads  
& where vision tends to elucidate

a mind's entropic mantra  
quandaries in alterity

## *subsiding oceanic irrationality*

*"This passage is concerned with a notion of substance,  
which I do not entertain"*

*Alfred North Whitehead*

*illusionary/mindwork/non-preemptory ego/ spendthriftly  
iron horse proboscis/a scattering/an addendum/a mindless  
rabble-/rousing protagonist/the shape spheroidicity takes  
in dreamtime spatiality/the reaper of mass destruction/ an  
inorganic peasantry/greening the sodden grave/a perspectival  
causality/inert hourglass momentum/a skipppping pen's  
insurgent inkblot/a teleological firmament/a Cartesian  
syncopation's uncompassed dialectic/a post-tribulationist's  
dispensational clangor/immobilizing pretensions/amplifica-  
tions on Bachian catgut/a portending hegemonic insularity/a  
proclivity to subcultural anorexic shadow-maya/Ted's refriger-  
ated head/ a futurity's acceptance/an apertural illumination of  
midnight sun/a clotted periodic crusader-laden rhetoric/one's  
use of this drug/may result in fatality/furthering pressures to  
sever the sinuous/cerebral dexterity/lobotomizing/the status-  
quo/an ego's periodic (partial-birth) abortion/a distilled foci of  
randomly cloistered nuns/strange black marks/to impart  
a protean dragonfly trajectory/clouds/a liquidity suspension  
in fatigued consciousness/a moisture content/prone to infec-  
tion/the anomalous topical beast/unnamed/fear is in-  
human/cosmetology constants/the worm of the subatomic/  
half-life decay/a discontinuous content(ment)/an unarmed  
army's mechanistic cancer/silent manipulation/ mental  
midgets/and a stuffed dog's axiomatic mindmelding/invading  
the fraying/thots of conformity/a garden is overgrown/an  
uncultivated anamnesis has endangered /one's way of life/ a  
pervasively unseeing pecking order orthodoxy/a calliope-  
disturbance/approaching in thunder/the rhythmic body in  
heat/a threaded sentience/awkwardly intimate transubstanti-  
ated anti-matter/Einstein/the emotive estrangement/of this/  
abstract embrace/ the prognosis is ambivalence/an ostenta-  
tious definition/thwarting the Wittgensteinian interrogation*

*pastoral apoplexy*

midden gardens  
cloister ghost  
emancipated  
soup kitchen  
free radical  
anarchism  
celestial  
bone lesions  
mass grave  
transcendence

spire indeterminacy  
anachronistic  
scar tissue  
preCopernican  
compass rose  
left field  
evolution  
cerebral vivisectionist  
caldera  
quiescence

walled street  
afterword  
psilocybin  
(c)age illusions  
mute modality  
temporal lobe  
seizure  
motherland progeny  
androgynous  
disfigurement

*unterminated complex entity*

*(significations of decay)*

factory at night  
eclipsing  
rising moon :  
horizons distinguishable  
line of talus -  
a smokescreened certainty  
a rhetoric  
oblique to a clarifying ablution -

relationships  
attentive drain:  
( draw the fluency  
from this cursory sentence . . . :  
*love's* elimination)

wingless bird  
recalibrating  
the Darwinian equation  
cynosures & wreckage  
trolling a rutilant gene-pool  
answers for the malignant contingency  
subsequent to design-falw (*sic*)  
cover-up

penumbral overcast  
industrial farm  
illumination's talisman  
indecipherable  
cave wall scrawlings  
Neanderthal blast-furnace  
(impervious cloud chamber)  
inchoate axioms  
zygote-chimera  
an evolution's dysgenic heir



there are the extremities  
of circumstance  
bleak pedestrian duration  
layers of sag  
flattening  
vocable mutations  
the vagrant areas  
of a feral thirst  
rote burnings  
to extinguish  
a tinder  
nameless as all experience  
as in the aura of words  
there is but one response  
silent as vengeance denied  
a corroded metal's faceted  
inoculation of repose  
tethering the ungathered  
earth to our breast



*thots to rationalize*

there is a strange familiarity  
which moves beneath the skin (gallantly)  
I claim to know my obsession  
is one of unequal perfection :  
'seeing invisible aliens  
emerging from darkened woods'  
somehow this repression fails  
to move me beyond  
a preoccupational dormancy  
illiterately unfathoming  
the strange words  
spoken by these errant changelings:  
emissaries of a (pre)historical deconstruction -

question :  
was Wittgenstein formed  
from a Husserlian mire:  
    the primordial soup  
    of some unempirical  
    transcendent patterning ?  
failures to fabricate  
a congruent argument  
leaves me to wonder  
alone among the inconsequential rubble ...  
I fall into a Neoplatonic repose -

there is a tendency  
to see myself  
misshapen  
by this detached intelligibility  
or concurrently  
comforted  
in the subtle nullities  
which enforce their imprints  
on the fabric  
of (an immutable) mortality -

*pastoral apoplexy*

hackneyed  
universalism  
backdrop diorama  
reindustrialization  
scatological effluent  
caustic panspermia  
factory floor  
axiomatic balance  
sprawling  
chemical lawn

Babel's babble  
denatured spirit  
pygmy night  
vanishing  
landscape  
white elephant  
subdivision  
missionary zeal  
(a) deconstructing  
materialism

cornerstone  
metaphor  
fastfood  
mercy stroke  
litigious wunderkind  
simple disasters  
iron angel  
abstractions  
prime time  
empathy loss

*romantic (de)crescendo*

to want more  
than the common  
belief can supply  
the resonating quandary :  
the non-enigmatic  
rhizomic tracteries . . .  
a hegira thru blacker woods  
(infinitely  
inhabiting the tidy packaging  
the florid temporalities  
forensic accretions  
removed from the actual  
remote embrace  
too much luminous inference  
being :  
an evocation  
from gaseous supplicants  
subversive misnomers  
set possibilities apart  
from the secular  
liturgies  
seamless base  
purifying  
wakes of chance  
patronizing a fool's  
intoxicated choosing  
the radiant (self)  
unseen

*the elimination of (~~virtues~~)  
vultures*

resurgences as indigo  
skies to resonate  
intuitive vacuity  
the unwritten is simplicity  
the pulse which slows  
to accommodate  
the guized foundling  
masked in symphonic metal  
there is a color  
spoken of  
(alloyed onyx)  
the one which illumines

by way of reason's function  
to alone page thru  
a landscape's soluble foreground  
fragment of wing  
littering the stone wall  
atrophic weight  
hollow bone density

(as what is belief  
apart from illusion  
inabsolutes  
cluttering  
paradox

a faith  
to have passed thru  
only to displace  
the madness  
of what is not  
here  
to demarcate  
numinous boundaries)



another inert gestation  
to bear  
the stigmata  
of an indelible repression  
self-indulgent reflection's  
knee-jerk teleology  
an empty rationale's  
reliquary-fiction

the opulent diorama  
a world seen  
as pyrotechnic  
    dispassionate backdrop  
skeletons  
heft from the frozen asphalt  
disinterred  
    faiths having claimed  
the writ of a dry-season remorse :

another trope for volumes  
unwritten  
    testaments  
morphing beyond the reasonable  
comprehension -

subsequent incarnations  
a loss to atomize  
collusional patternings  
the lax catechumen's  
anachronistic introspections  
cranial scratchings  
cerebral phantasmagoria  
a will-to-power  
white-noise resistance  
backed into square one's  
obsolete    arcanum -

there is no ecliptic  
of contrary sun  
to follow  
a clotted whirlwind's  
aleatoric word

furthering causations  
left    to bleed the dragon  
of a barbarism's  
neo-canonized theodicy

insentient anathema  
(intrepid enmity)  
wrought for another  
millennium's  
inevitable

d  
e  
c  
a  
y

*unterminated complex entity*

(the median flow)

*it was* a history repeating  
*it was* an infrastructural flaw  
*it was* a presence unmitigated  
*it was* an unfurling of ideology  
*it was* a subjunctive agenda  
*it was* the outsourcing of internal poverty  
*it was* a metastasizing confluence  
*it was* a plume of incendiary aspiration  
*it was* an ill-defined factor of inherited rationality  
*it was* the lesionous outgrowth of humanity's  
                    pathologically repressive obsessions

*not* the finalities which seal the tomb  
*not* Oppen's bright light of shipwreck  
*not* Olson's penultimate gloom on watchhouse point  
*not* the self-alienating effigy immersed in an amniotic ether  
*not* the elastic fugue of reincarnate dementia  
*not* the scion of disparate root-systems disinterred  
*not* a lineage denied its bodily fruition  
*not* the surfacing of thot later discarded  
*not* the parallax of exo-planetary shadow-lag  
*not* the repose given to chronically apathetic opaqueness  
*not* the limbs discarded for lack of ensuing war

*the way* evening's intransigence lingers unnoticed  
*the way* we cull chaff from our brother's eye  
*the way* the page remains an inept artifact empty of meaning  
*the way* we appeal to an abandoned interiority  
*the way* renormalisation affects the outcome of our reality  
*the way* language limits our vastly unexplored ontology  
*the way* we acclimate to time's unceasing indeterminacy  
*the way* solace is frittered away as unknowingly  
as death encroaches

*pastoral apoplexy*

iron rail  
golddigger  
anonymous  
prima facia  
sacred cow  
dung trials  
anglophile  
dossier  
prairie rose  
endless sky

lapis sea  
migration  
end game  
novitiate  
random equilibrium  
democratic  
cul-de-sac  
urbane sprawl  
annular space  
tarnished diaspora

soapbox morality  
predestined  
alpha male  
solipsistic  
objectification  
relative mutability  
slaphappy  
fence sitter  
humpty dumpty  
relativity



*thots to rationalize*

these erstwhile reflections  
are ultimately the outgrowth  
of some unseen quantum entanglement  
yet I still search for consistencies  
living within  
the changing patterns  
of her facial symmetries

occasionally the membrane ruptures  
allowing the exterior  
effect of sunlight  
to alter its internal constitution  
loose trajectories of forward momentum  
as such she bears the scars  
of another's externalized alter-ego  
and I  
unnoticing  
cannot see her forest  
instinctually absent  
as it is  
from my limited focus  
asleep and incoherent  
absorbed in this ancillary fog

I suspect this interminability  
will out  
and manifest itself  
as one among many static backdrops:  
those I refuse  
to let affect  
the pathological orbits  
of my many unconsciously sired  
romantic maladies -

*unterminated complex entity*

(Ø)

strange black marks  
                    without the sun  
to filter out                      *another time*  
    peripherally    locked behind  
                                    *an other mind : last repressions*  
I stand      to be  
                    introspective      @ what cost  
  
angels                      shadow                      obituaries  
                    ...  
                    bonegardens  
            and the like  
specified  
situations in excess              types of tragedy  
shake out thru centuries              entangled beast  
resurrected in the veins              sorties for a *new day*  
                    a crow for the madman  
            to piece together      an imploding present  
prescient              disquieted ruins      an identical sea  
            to bleed thru  
                    the imprisoned ego  
                    commingling with  
                            the etheric  
impediments      . . .      a study of clouds  
(without the sun)                      unframed      in time ...  
a    totality  
            sketched in oils  
                    scarified                      progeny  
            acquiescence                      aggregate - poverty  
one less bout with a recriminating incarnation  
            . . . island to be noticed . . .  
without denial                      (they dream of vultures)  
            as a possibility      having mended the flaw  
unnecessarily (wounded)      rewriting  
                                    first impressions

## *significations of decay*

impressions : ...

summations of landscapes  
the unencumbering logic  
minute glandular secretions  
adrenaline rush in angstroms  
beyond the mutable dialectic  
the slow decomposition  
emaciating the spirit

radiant

blockages interred  
random incendiary  
microbial touch  
*(blanched sky is not  
the azure unseen)*  
or how the aim  
is throated  
yet blemished by speech  
Neoplatonic glyphs  
instinctually patterned  
aural labyrinth

no longer  
    able to cull legibility  
    or incrementalize  
    the recurrence of further damages  
    indeterminate  
    tablature keepings  
    stresses which direct us  
    to unadorn the turbulence  
    a chaos-sheathing  
    this cogency of matter  
    singular  
    *(rose in the briar patch)*  
    impression's  
    amorous disquietude  
    the bending prismatic foci  
    history bequeaths  
    an obsolete intuition's  
    gentrified rabble  
    the elusive outcrops  
    ambient undercurrents  
    sedimentary artifacts  
    hermetic ailments  
    infecting the eyes  
    word's transparencies  
    wall-illusion     (ragged pages'  
    indecipherable   concretion :  
    immanent precipice   erosion  
                    *(absence of . . .*

*glass wall empyrean*

## Damoclean

siege-engines

majestic paper tiger

death camp ineluctability

surmounting

towers of mutability

a clotted

fury of kings

fortresses

against insurgency

memorialized

town hall's

alabaster shadows

falling

night's

sculptured ruins

breathe the air in-

dispensable light

an isolationist's dharma

discriminating

the unseen

abstract imperative

riverbled

deluge

leaving fields

of steel & briar

(sanguine) wastespaces

perpetuating

a cloister mantra's

equivocal      resultant

a caustic sentinel's  
    rewriting of history  
vengeance to breach  
    the iron wall (will)

again said . . .

*whose silenced voices are . . .*  
    *transposing . . .*  
*the transparent face . . .*  
    *of another's . . .*  
*collateral damage . . .*

. . . the sword  
to fall upon . . .

an unlikely land  
    of mercy's flaw

faint praise  
    to raise  
    the flag  
of shame and virtue

*pastoral apoplexy*

Plato's cave  
industrial dawn  
caryatid shadows  
hypothetical  
ratiocination  
skid row  
skyline  
winter rose  
Roman vomitorium  
stubble field

anal smooch  
despotism  
free market  
labor pains  
liberal aesthetics  
carnal repression  
smiley face  
crusader  
landfill queen  
exploitation

scapegoat  
reparation  
semantic antfarm  
lucid dissonance  
commodification  
entrapment  
warmonger scuttlebutt  
iconoclastic  
humanity  
null set

## *thots to ration*

*a sense of the rational / procurement /  
skipping a page / between /  
this space / used / to dissect /  
a thot /  
a past's abrading wind /  
to process /  
a desire's tensile displacement /*

*her face / has wrought /  
another Trojan deconstruction /  
the transitory / present /  
floating layers / permanent induction /  
each niche / or node /  
a stature / given presence*

*she understands / what is /  
unspoken / though to appear /  
to apprehend / little /  
discursive minimalism /  
yielding a pattern /  
ragged crisis / critical dependency /  
severing occurrence / to form /  
significant uncertainties /  
placement / without thot /  
to indeterminacy / amassing /  
in ego's rigor*



*unterminated complex entity*

*(the innate poverty of this corpse  
is not a subjective choice . . .)*

indifferent to motives  
the abject dream of matter  
ceasing  
to engage  
this weight of alchemic fog

the sculptured cord  
severed  
the chambered torso  
numbed  
that's intangibilities  
detached  
line of sight  
outlined  
chalked quadrant  
deflecting the eye



as such maybe  
generalizations  
cease to hold  
the factual  
in check

time and again  
there is no reason  
for happenings to concur  
with the fate  
of interior disenchantment

clarity's  
defamiliarization

a stone's throw  
from the silent cavities  
visible aggregates  
alongside mutual lines  
of collective foci

the present

at differing hours  
days rise and fall  
while being impervious  
to the inarticulate      doorways  
moving the sundial  
across the pavement  
that which does not cease  
when breath fails  
to animate  
the sterile course  
incipient  
sentience  
acclimating to shadow

there is randomness again  
in a past's gathered  
noncoherent momentum  
reaching into  
    the semantics  
    of parallel recurrence  
    the votive motions  
        passing (from)  
this eclipsing   sameness  
this inertial oceanic ir-  
                            rationality

*romantic (de)crescendo*

sky alone  
    crystalline  
        glass refraction  
    window's  
        imbricative apprehension  
    indistinct  
        a mind's prismatic chaos  
    arrestments  
in the throes of an ontic aberration  
    this common-flaw illusion  
    immateriality  
        rasping at the cloistered door  
    a strangely weighted  
        statuary numbness  
the inarticulate hierogram  
endwords for the irrational  
    abstractions elucidating  
    this complex effigy  
this autonomy's undefined  
    significations of decay

*coda :*  
*(an obvious oblivion)*

somehow to see  
the longer face of pain  
reflecting back  
a blank stare -  
no fathoming of infinity's portents  
to soothe  
a null set's inert equation -  
opposition at the outer edge  
of this celestial spiral arm  
immune to a cerebral debris'  
toxic effluent -

to follow this that  
to fruition  
requires ruminations within  
an enduring matrix  
of abstract individuality -  
the much maligned  
self - significations  
remaking this space between  
an unflinching fate's  
indeterminate evolution

I unname the reflection  
    which once stood  
in the stead of this singularity -  
    static projections  
    from constricting  
anthropomorphic musings -  
unraveling alignments  
    to a karmic wheel's  
        idiosyncratic orbital plane -  
these shared attunements  
with scattered driftwood images -  
    *(impervious walls*  
        *of transient words)*  
irrationality's ruinous profusion -  
    the unseen event-horizons  
    which share this night sky's  
        common shore . . .  
distinct as a distance is  
    traversed within  
a glass world empyrean  
    a faith reflected  
        in similar faces -  
crowds lost to their own  
    terrestrial isolationism

